(v) State Government has reconstituted the Advisory Board under Section 9(I) of the Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 to take up the cases under the said Act.

Augmenting the public stocks of imported cooking oil

2316. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to augment its public stock of imported cooking oil in view of possible deficient monsoon affecting oil seeds production;

(b) whether Government has asked the State owned trading companies to import up to one million tonnes of edible oil over the next one year; and

(c) whether despite being a consumer friendly move to help BPL families to tide over the current inflation of food items, it would also depress margins for large private sector players in edible oil business?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir. The Government does not maintain a public stock of edible oil.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Shortage of godowns of FCI in Tamil Nadu

2317. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the shortage of storage godowns of the Food Corporation of India in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to meet the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. As on 30.6.2009, in Tamil Nadu, FCI is having total storage capacity of 9.57 Lac MT (Owned and Hired/Covered and CAP) against the total quantity of foodgrains stored therein of 9.68 Lac MT with the utilization of 101%.

(b) In order to overcome the shortage of space, the following steps have been taken to meet the shortage of storage capacity:—

(i) In Tamil Nadu, FCI has identified 18 locations to create additional capacity of 3.20 Lac MT through the Scheme for construction of godowns under which FCI is offering five year guarantee.

(ii) Further the General Manager (Regions) have been fully authorized to hire additional storage capacity from CWC/SWCs/State Agencies and Private Parties as per requirement.